

SENATE....No. 10.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

*To his Excellency George S. Boutwell, Governor, and the
Honorable Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Mas-
sachusetts :*

REPORT

Of the Commissioners appointed to superintend the enlargement
of the Massachusetts State Prison.

The present site of the Massachusetts State Prison, the only State penitentiary in the Commonwealth, was purchased by the State, November 13, 1800. The old prison, the exterior outlines of which still remain unaltered, was completed in 1805. This building is 200 feet long by 44 feet wide. The two wings as originally constructed were four stories, making 38 feet in height, and contained, in all, 90 cells, of dimensions to accommodate from 6 to 16 convicts in each cell. One of these wings, west of the centre, remains as originally constructed. The other, east of the centre, has been entirely remodeled in the interior, as will be described hereafter. The centre between the two wings is 5 stories high, and measuring 46 feet from the ground to the eaves. It is occupied by the deputy warden and his family. On the top is a cupola, in which is suspended an alarm bell. When the old prison was erected, the practice of

congregating convicts in large dormitories was common, and for many years afterwards this practice was continued. Gross and deplorable evils resulted from this system, which in time attracted the attention of the community, and ultimately led to the substitution of solitary cells in which to eat and to lodge. To meet this reform in prison discipline, a law was passed in 1826, recommended by Governor Lincoln, for the building of a new prison, to contain 300 solitary cells. This building was completed for occupancy in October 1829, (occupying three years in building.) This structure is of granite, 200 feet long by 46 feet wide, with a wooden roof covered with slate. It contains 304 cells, 7 feet long, 7 feet high, and 3 feet 6 inches wide. It is lighted by a large number of small windows and sky-lights. Subsequent to the completion of this prison building, a law was passed requiring that "all convicts shall be confined in separate cells in the night time." Up to September, 1849, by using some of the large cells in the old prison, the prison government was able to comply with this law. But the rapid increase of convicts during the year ensuing rendered compliance impracticable. From September 30, 1849, to September 30, 1850, the number of prisoners increased from 349 to 440. As the whole number of cells in the old and the then called new prison, was but 394, the excess of prisoners (admitting that all the old cells were accessible for lodging-rooms, but which was not the case) over the number of cells was 46. Under these circumstances, the board of inspectors which had called the attention of the executive to the necessity of increased accommodations, were fully sustained in the views they had presented in this regard.

The plan for the enlargement, executed under the superintendence of the present board of commissioners was adopted and recommended by a committee of the legislature of 1850, consisting of Hon. Lysander Richards, and Charles Thompson, of the senate, and Jefferson Bancroft, John Odin, Jr., Joseph Raymond, Alden C. Field, and Edward Thorndike, of the house of representatives, all of whom, excepting the individual last named, united in saying:—"From a thorough investigation of the subject, they believe that the proposed extension, plans of which are hereby submitted, combine all the improvements

of the present day; and they believe that no other plan than that proposed, would fully meet the demands of an enlightened community." They farther say:—"Your committee have consulted some of the best authorities in the Commonwealth on this subject,—men who have not only devoted their time and talents to perfecting the best models in prison architecture, but have proved themselves the real benefactors of mankind in the different spheres in which they have been called to act, whether in restoring lost reason, and clothing man in his right mind, or bringing back the wanderer from virtue to the paths of innocence and peace. With scarcely an exception they have unhesitatingly pronounced the proposed enlargement to embrace the improvements and excellencies of the different systems of the present day." It is but justice to say that this plan was introduced and recommended to the committee by the Rev. Louis Dwight, of Boston.

The report of this committee was accompanied by a plan for the erection of an octagonal centre to be located east and adjoining the old prison, and south of the building then called the new prison and adjoining thereto, to be 73 feet wide from north to south, and 65 feet wide from east to west, and 73 feet high to the roof, with a cupola. South and adjoining to this octagon was a plan for a new wing 90 feet long and 49 feet wide, with walls 41 feet above the ground; to contain a block of cells 5 stories high, each cell to be $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and $4\frac{9}{12}$ feet wide, and 7 feet 8 inches high. The entire block to measure 80 feet in length, 22 feet in width, and 39 feet in height. Each story to contain 30 cells, making 150 in the block. The plan also embraced a remodeling of the east wing of the old prison to conform to the design of the new wing, and to contain 80 cells. The plan of the octagon contemplated apartments for a guard-room and offices, hospital and chapel. The walls to be of unhammered stone, and doors of iron with iron bars to windows, &c. These were the leading outlines of the plan. The report of the committee was adopted, and an act was passed by the legislature and approved by the governor on the 3d day of May, 1850, authorizing the proposed erections and modifications in accordance with the report, and appropriating \$100,000 to defray the necessary expenditures. This act au-

thorized "the governor, with the advice of the council, to appoint two commissioners, who, with the warden of the prison, shall superintend the erection of the said additional prison, &c." Commissioners were appointed in June. In August contracts were made for the masonry, iron-work, carpentry-work, painting, &c., comprising the leading outlines and general details embraced in the plans. The work was commenced and kept up with unceasing application in all weathers during the winter of '50, '51, whenever men could work out of doors. After the buildings were covered, there was no cessation from labor in the prosecution of the work in charge of the commissioners, unless from unavoidable necessity. The security of the prisoners and reasonable accommodation to the government of the prison occasioned some unavoidable interruptions. In the progress of the work it was found that some important improvements in the details not considered in the estimates, could be introduced without interfering with the general features of the plan, and which would be warranted by judicious economy. One of these improvements, which was at the time submitted to the governor and council, and by them approved, was to sustain the floors of the octagon by iron posts starting from the floor of the basement, and continued from the floor of the guard-room to the chapel, instead of leaving the floors all depending from the roof, which would, in case of a fire in that locality, greatly jeopardize the lives of the prisoners. This improvement required an outlay of several thousand dollars, and is in itself a sufficient cause for the excess of expenditure over appropriations, which the commissioners have incurred in completing the objects intrusted to their care and supervision. In the progress of the work in charge of the commissioners, it was found that 20 additional cells could be constructed in the east wing of the old prison at a moderate expense, by constructing an additional story to the block authorized in the original act for enlargement. Deeming it their duty to take advantage of this discovery, the governor and council were apprised of it, and on recommendation of the governor an act was passed authorizing the addition, and making the required appropriation, the sum appropriated being \$5,000. This appropriation was made in the spring of 1851. During the session

of the last legislature, the commissioners applied for an appropriation to complete the kitchen, and for other purposes. At that time there were some unsettled accounts which had been withheld, and one unsettled contract, the amount of which could not be exactly ascertained, and considerable extra work remained to be executed. Under these circumstances, the commissioners under-estimated the amount necessary to meet existing and accruing demands. In the final summing up, they find a deficiency of thirteen hundred seventy-eight $\frac{80}{100}$ dollars. This sum will have to be provided by a future appropriation. Upon full investigation, the undersigned believe that your honorable body will find that this work has been done with faithfulness and economy. It embraces not only increased accommodations for prisoners, but a modification of the entire prison department of the institution; that is the department for the prisoners to eat and to sleep in. It gives a spacious, well ventilated, and secure guard-room, with offices attached; a commodious, airy, and well-contrived chapel; an extensive, elevated, well-lighted hall, designed by the projector for a hospital; a convenient, well-arranged, fire-proof kitchen, and 250 larger, better lighted, better ventilated, and more secure cells than any before in the institution. The new chapel leaves the old chapel to be used as a work-shop or for other uses, and the new kitchen releases the old one for other uses. The new hospital, if not applied to hospital purposes, will be wanted for work-shops or useful store-rooms. No room will be lost, although some may not be appropriated to the uses originally intended.

In former reports the commissioners have alluded to incidental delays in the progress of the work, which they need not repeat.

The work is now completed, combining some important and indispensable improvements upon the original plan, but without interfering with the great features of the design, over which the commissioners had no control nor direction; and for which they are entitled to no credit and share no responsibility.

As a whole, the work is well executed, of good materials, and will not suffer in comparison with other structures of the same class and similar magnitude.

The whole establishment now contains 554 solitary cells, besides the large cells in the west wing of the old prison. The number of prisoners is about 490, leaving a surplus of, say 64, solitary cells. As the other departments of the prison are exclusively in the care of the inspectors, it would not be proper for the undersigned to give details of their condition and accommodations.

The whole cost of the enlargement and modifications, including the additional cells not contemplated in the original plan, additional iron and stone work, and incidental improvements, not comprehended in the original estimates, will be one hundred and nine thousand seven hundred and nineteen and $\frac{24}{100}$ dollars.

The appropriation for erecting the octagon, new wing, and modification of the east wing of the old prison, in accordance with the plan, was,	\$100,000 00
The appropriation for 20 additional cells in east wing of old prison, was,	5,000 00
An appropriation for completion, and apparatus, was,	3,000 00
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Making,	\$108,000 00

The iron and stone work, including material connected with the guard-room, *not considered* in the original estimates, but which was deemed necessary and sanctioned by the governor and council of 1850, cost something more than \$7,000. But for this unexpected outlay, the whole work would have been accomplished for several thousand dollars less than the sum appropriated.

Accompanying this report will be found copies of contracts for so much of the work and materials as could be profitably contracted for; and full accounts of all expenditures under the commission, with vouchers. It will be seen, as before remarked, that a deficiency exists of thirteen hundred and seventy-eight $\frac{90}{100}$ dollars, which will require an additional appropriation.

The commissioners deem this a fit opportunity to acknowl-

edge the valuable and ready services of the wardens of the prison at all seasons, during the day and night time, throughout the whole progress of the work.

The commissioners likewise avail themselves of this occasion to express their thanks to your excellency and to the honorable council for your uniform courtesy and encouragement; and would respectfully tender their services, if needed, to complete any unfinished business of the commission without charge to the Commonwealth.

With great respect,

Your obedient servants,

JONATHAN PRESTON, }
EDWARD THORNDIKE, } *Commissioners*

Boston, August 27, 1852.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of Justice of the Peace for the year 1871. The names are arranged in alphabetical order.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

ALFRED J. BROWN
WILLIAM H. GREEN
THOMAS R. WHITE

JOHN D. BLACK

CHARLES E. GRAY

HENRY G. HARRIS

JAMES K. JONES

EDWARD L. KING

FRANK M. LEWIS

GEORGE N. MITCHELL

ROBERT O. NICHOLS

WALTER P. ORR

ANDREW Q. PHILLIPS

JOHN R. RICE

THOMAS S. SMITH

WILLIAM T. TAYLOR

CHARLES U. UNDERWOOD

EDWARD V. VAN DYKE

FRANK W. WALLACE

GEORGE X. WEST

ANDREW Y. YOUNG